

# Eucalyptus leaf beetle

## (*Chrysophtharta m-fuscum*)

- Recently (August 2003) found on landscape trees in N Tustin, Orange Co.; probably native to Australia.
- Host: Blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).
- Field ID: Adults about 5-7 mm long, **gray to reddish brown**, hemispherical and flattened underneath. Legs with fourth tarsomere bilobed and covered ventrally with a thick set of bristles. Larva **greenish-gray**, caterpillar-like, with head and thoracic legs black, and a pair of **fleshy eversible defense glands** on dorsum of abdominal segment 8; larvae feed on the young waxy growth of host plant. Elliptical, orange eggs laid in rows on the underside of leaves. Both adults and larvae are covered with a whitish pruinescence that helps camouflage them with the leaves on which they feed. Similar to Australian tortoise beetle (ATB), from which it can be distinguished by lighter color (both adult and larva of ATB are dark brown). Pupae **bright yellow**, probably in ground litter underneath the tree.

